DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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West German Paper Claims Chunk of France

A West German newspaper "Ost-West-Kurier" has claimed that France should cede large tracts of territory to Germany.

In its November number the paper stated: "France should give back such towns as Toul, Nancy and Montbeliard, which were founded by the Germans."

The towns named all lie over 50 miles inside France, and did not even form part of Hitler's overblown "Greater Germany."

The "Ost-West-Kurier," which is generally regarded as reflecting the views of Theodor Oberlaender, West German Minister for Refugees, and former Major in Hitler's storm troops, constantly agitates against Germany's present frontiers.

Forgers Help U.S. Sabotage

The American-financed espionage and sabotage groups are using the services of professional forgers in their efforts to disrupt the economy of the German Democratic Republic, police reports from various parts of East Germany show.

Forged ration cards, and other documents of all sorts have been brought into circulation. Forged coal dockets, which can be distinguished from genuine ones by the fact that they are printed on a yellowish paper without watermark, and forged rebate-stamps for use in cooperative stores have been widely distributed.

Forged stamps for the payment of trade union dues have also been discovered at various places in East Germany, the Free German Trade Union Federation announced.

Another form of sabotage, directed from a central organisation in West Berlin, has been the circulation of false orders for goods to nationalised factories. The orders, typed on the forged or stolen stationery of other nationalised factories, are intended to disorganise the production programme, in order to create unrest. These fictitious orders have been uniformly mailed in plain white envelopes with cellophane windows.

"END OCCUPATION BURDEN"

— *E. Germany Urges Bonn*

The West German Government should request the western powers to slash occupation costs, just as the Soviet Union has cut occupation burdens on East Germany, the Government of the German Democratic Republic urged on November 23rd.

The proposal was made in an official letter addressed to the Government of the (West) German Federal Republic in Bonn. The letter pointed out that the Soviet Union had cut occupation costs in East Germany to only 5% of the state budget, while in West Germany occupation costs made up 35% of the budget and were still growing; that the Soviet Union had cancelled all further reparation payments while West Germany was still paying big reparations; and that West Germany was being made to pay old state debts such as the Dawes and Young loans, raised in the 1920's

"West Germany is being forced into a state of dependence upon foreign powers by the transfer of German works into foreign property under the influence of the occupation regime" the letter stated.

"The entire German people have the most burning interest in making it impossible for foreign powers to use the West German economy for the preparation of a new war.

"One of the indispensable conditions for the establishment of German sovereignty is the transfer into the hands of the German people of the West German factories which are wholly or partly in foreign ownership".

(As is well known the last 33 Soviet-owned factories in East Germany will be turned over to the East German state on January 1st 1954.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic believes that no German should allow the

(cont. on page 2)

NAZI MAJOR SEIZED AS SPY

East German security forces have arrested a nazi major, chief of an espionage bureau in West Berlin, in the act of trying to lay a secret telephone cable between East and West Berlin. Investigators believe that the cable was to have been used for wire tapping.

The arrested man, Werner Haase, alias Wilhelm Heister, of 13 Filander Strasse in the American Sector of Berlin, was a regimental commander in Hitler's Wehrmacht. He made a full confession to the East German security authorities of his activities as chief of "Espionage Bureau 120 A" in West Berlin, one of the branches of the huge spy ring, financed by American funds, run by former Hitler General Gustav Gehlen.

Full details of the activities of this spy ring were printed in GERMAN REPORT dated November 13th 1953. Here is confirmation from the West German news magazine „Spiegel" dated November 18th, of the activities of the Gehlen spy ring:

"... another far more powerful German military intelligence agent now active is Major General Gehlen. During the war Gehlen was head of the section "Enemy Armies in the East" in the German General Staff. His organisation was kept up after the war with the help of American subsidies.

"Now there is no further obstacle to the Gehlen apparatus being paid for by the German authorities, or, if Bonn is not able to raise the millions hitherto used, then the organisation can be regarded as a particularly valuable German contribution to the European Defence Community, to be used and paid for collectively."

(cont. from p. 1)

"END BURDEN"

presence of American troops on German soil to prevent him from standing up for the vital national interests of the German people. The Government of the German Democratic Republic therefore urges the Government of the German Federal Republic to request the governments of the USA, the United Kingdom and France to take similar steps to those taken by the Government of the USSR.

"The measures proposed by the Government of the German Democratic Republic would help the establishment of understanding amongst the Germans themselves for the creation of an All-German Provisional Government, the participation of such a government in the preparation and holding of a peace conference with Germany, and the creation of a united, peace-loving, independent and democratic Germany."

The text of the letter sent by the East German to the West German Government was announced at a press conference in Berlin, attended by the German and foreign press.

At the press conference, figures were given of the enormous load of indebtedness forced upon West Germany by the occupation regime; indebtedness which was not used to compensate those who had suffered from the nazi war, but which further enriched the same German and foreign circles who had made immense profits out of war.

Statistics were given showing that foreign capitalists today dominate one quarter of West Germany's coal production; 30% of her steel production; 30% of the motor vehicle production (General Motors and Ford); and large sectors of the chemical, electrical and petrol industries.

British Soldier Chooses Peace

British soldier Martin Nee of the Royal Irish Fusiliers has asked the Government of the German Democratic Republic for asylum in East Germany.

"I do not want to take part in the new world war which is being prepared by the ruling circles of Great Britain and the USA" Martin Nee stated in his application.

GERMAN REPORT and the West Berlin Post Office

Copies of GERMAN REPORT have been mailed regularly since its inception to the correspondents of the main British and American newspapers and news agencies in West Berlin.

Our aim was to provide these correspondents with the truth about East Germany, as some small counter-balance to the nonsense which they read daily in the West Berlin newspapers, the main source of most of their stories.

After receiving several complaints from correspondents that the paper was not arriving regularly, we wrote to all the addressees in West Berlin, suggesting that if the paper was not coming through they might complain to the West Berlin authorities who were obviously tampering with their mail.

Here are two of the replies received:

"I have not personally complained about not receiving the 'Democratic Report' but in fact have never done so since I arrived in Berlin last February. I should however be interested to receive it, and would be grateful if you could make the necessary arrangements.

"I have no reason to believe that the West Berlin postal authorities are in any way interfering with my mail . . ."

Charles Hargrove
The Times (London) Correspondent.

(GERMAN REPORT has been mailed to Mr. Hargrove regularly for months. The East Berlin postal authorities have certainly not been interfering. If it is not the West Berlin Post Office, then obviously the only explanation is mice. ed.)

"I told you two years ago to use plain wrappers—just like the Western authorities do if they want to get their viewpoint into 'Free' East Germany.

"Of course we have not received the DGR—although I went to the trouble of asking you to send it to us ages ago—because presumably you would rather annoy the West Berlin post by using a propaganda wrapper than send it the ordinary civilised way. You may quote me in full only."

Antony Terry
"Sunday Times," London.

(The 'propaganda wrapper' - to which Mr. Terry refers is the envelope in which all postal subscribers receive the newspaper, with the text "Printed Matter—If undelivered, please return to DGR Friedrichstrasse 167/III Germany." We are still wondering what this is supposed to be propagating, and what the "ordinary civilised way" to send papers by post may be.

On page 1 of this issue, under the headline "Forgers help U. S. Sabotage" we give an example of what Mr. Terry is presumably referring to when he urges us to use plain wrappers "just like the Western authorities do if they want to get their viewpoint" into East Germany.

But anyway, measures are being taken to see to it that in future Mr. Hargrove, Mr. Terry, and the other foreign correspondents, get GERMAN REPORT despite the mail censorship operated illegally by the West Berlin postal authorities. ed.)

19 New Schools in Democratic Berlin

Nineteen new schools have been built in the Democratic Sector of Berlin in the first five years of office of the Democratic City Administration. The Democratic Administration, headed by Lord Mayor Friedrich Ebert, took over on December 1st 1948, after the previous all-Berlin administration had been wrecked by western manoeuvres.

The completion next year of two further schools, already under construction, will mean that "education in two shifts," introduced after the war as the result of bomb damage to schools, can finally be done away with.

The extension of senior education in East Berlin is shown best by the fact that in the workers' district of Friedrichshain over 30% of all children now go on at the age of 14 from elementary schools to senior schools for four more years' education. In pre-war days only 4% of the children in this district were able to attend senior schools. In the comparable West Berlin district of Kreuzberg only 16% of the children are able to go on to senior school.

POLES WARN

If the "European Army" is established, German militarists will use it to annex foreign territory, the Polish Government stated in a warning note sent to France, Belgium, Norway, Holland, Denmark and Luxembourg. "The Polish people, who suffered so frightfully in the last war, attach particular importance to the German question" the note stated. "At present the old aggressive militarist forces are driving ahead (in West Germany) with a speeded-up programme of rearmament, supported by the Government of the United States.

"These forces are endeavouring to restore Germany's military power with the aim of making new attempts to conquer Europe, and to open the path to world expansion on the part of revived German imperialism. This is a steadily growing threat to the peace and security of all European nations, particularly the states neighbouring on Germany, which have repeatedly experienced the frightful results of this policy, which is also fateful for the German people themselves."

W. GERMAN WEHRMACHT IN MARCH 1954?

The West German Wehrmacht will be established at the latest in March 1954, the West German weekly newspaper "Welt am Sonnabend" reported on November 21st.

"All preparations for establishing the twelve (West) German divisions have long been completed, and the job of creating them can literally begin within a week at any time," the paper stated.

"Some time ago the British Army of the Rhine made a significant change in its name, which is now 'Northern Army Group.' Such a title is only chosen for a unit within a larger military organisation, and this is the case here. The core of the European Defence Community Army has been functioning militarily for a long time, before the necessary treaties have been approved by the states concerned. The whole military machinery—the operational areas of the divisions, the composition of the staffs—is already ticking over. All that is still lacking is the German divisions.

"The front is divided into three army groups on German soil. In north Germany there is the Northern Army Group commanded by the British Lieutenant General Sir Richard Gale. He has command over four British divisions, the Dutch Corps, and two Belgian divisions in reserve. It is planned to add six German divisions.

"The Central Army Group, commanded by the French General Noiret, composed of five French and two American divisions will not receive German reinforcements.

"The Southern Army Group, commanded by U. S. Lieutenant General John R. Hodges, is composed of four American divisions which will be reinforced by six German divisions. In addition Hodges and Noiret together will have two German reserve divisions at their disposal.

"Gale and Hodges, in command of German soldiers, will occupy similar positions to those held in the last war by men like Manstein, Kesselring, Rommel, etc."

"West Torpedoed Peace Talks"—New Statesman

The Western powers have torpedoed a Big Four conference on unity by insisting on the rearmament of West Germany, the London weekly journal "New Statesman and Nation" declared in an outspoken leading article on November 21st.

The "New Statesman" reflects the views of large and important sections of the British Labour Party. Here are some of the main points from the article, which deals with the Soviet Union and the western powers:

"It is a grave thing to accuse a Foreign Secretary of deliberately misleading his own people. It is with the greatest reluctance, therefore, and only after the most careful re-examination of the documents, that we make this charge against Mr Eden. We accuse him of misrepresenting the latest Soviet Note in order to create the impression that while the Western Powers are anxious for a Four Power Conference without preconditions, the Russians have laid down preconditions and so torpedoed it.

"The truth, indeed, about the long exchange of notes, now ended, is that it is the Western Powers who have laid down three preconditions, which they knew to be unacceptable.

"It is the Western Powers, therefore, who have torpedoed the conference. Finally, it is the Western Powers who have adopted the propaganda device, first developed by Adolf Hitler, of attributing to their enemy the dubious tactics they themselves have chosen to employ . . .

"What then of Germany? This was the one subject which Mr Dulles, Mr Bidault and Lord Salisbury at Bermuda decided was suitable for a Four Power Conference. Their reason for selecting it was clear. They realised that until such a conference had failed to reach agreement (or alternatively until they could make it look as though the Russians had refused to come) there was no chance of persuading the French Assembly to ratify E. D. C.

"Mr Molotov therefore was invited to Lugano, but only after Mr Dulles and Mr Eden had made it plain that nothing which could happen there would alter their determination to rearm Western Germany and integrate it into the Atlantic Defence system.

"Both in his Note and at his Press Conference, Mr Molotov called attention to this problem. After repeating his willingness to join in a Five Power Conference on World problems, and a Four Power Conference on Germany, he went on to ask whether the Western powers were determined to rearm Western Germany, even while the Conference was still sitting.

"In fact, so far from laying down his own preconditions, he merely inquired whether Mr Eden and Mr Dulles were insisting on theirs. The only possible reply to this would have been: 'Yes, we are.' But, since such a reply would have outraged public opinion in France and Britain, the three Foreign Secretaries took refuge in diplomatic fraud.

"One thing is certain. The men who smothered the Churchill peace initiative and who are now obstructing the conferences on Korea and Germany are not in Moscow, but in Washington; and their accomplices are Sir Winston's colleagues in Downing Street."

PROFILES

ANTI-NAZI VETERANS HEAD EAST GERMAN GOVERNMENT

Who are the people who head the Government of the German Democratic Republic? Here are short biographies of some outstanding figures in the administration.

Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister

Born in Brunswick in 1894, he learned the trade of a printer, and joined the Socialist movement when he was 17 years old. In the Weimar Republic Otto Grotewohl was for a period Social Democratic Minister for Education in the Brunswick Provincial Government, and for many years Social Democratic Deputy in the Reichstag.

During the Hitler regime, Grotewohl was active in the underground opposition, and was twice arrested.

After 1945, Otto Grotewohl became first Chairman of the re-formed Social Democratic Party in the eastern zone of Germany. His experiences in the fight against Hitler had taught him that the workers' parties must unite if they were to win the battle for Socialism, and he put all his strength into the struggle for the ending of the differences between Social Democrats and Communists.

In April 1946 the unification became a fact, and Otto Grotewohl became co-chairman with Wilhelm Pieck of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, a post which he has held ever since.

In October 1949, on the formation of the German Democratic Republic, President Wilhelm Pieck asked Grotewohl to form the first cabinet, and since October 13th 1949 he has been Prime Minister.

Otto Nuschke, Deputy Prime Minister

On February 4th 1933, just five days after Hitler had seized power, a stocky man of 50 got to his feet in the Prussian Provincial Parliament and stated:

"Germany will be a great and cultured nation when National Socialism, with its terrorism and its racial theories is only an unpleasant memory".

Turning towards the brown-shirted nazi rowdies who tried to shout him down, he continued:

"Your path has begun with violence, and may lead us to chaos and destruction".

The man who spoke these prophetic words was Otto Nuschke, Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic and chairman of the Christian Democratic Party.

During the nazi period Nuschke, who had a long tradition of real liberalism and anti-militarism, was repeatedly arrested by the nazis.

After the war he immediately came forward to help in reconstruction, and has been Deputy Prime Minister since the formation of the German Democratic Republic in 1949.

Walter Ulbricht, Deputy Prime Minister

Born in Leipzig in 1893 in a very poor family, Walter Ulbricht learned the trade of a joiner. At the age of 15 he joined the Socialist Youth Movement, and he has been a member of the Woodworkers Trade Union since 1910.

During the 1918 revolution Walter Ulbrich was a member of the Workers' and Soldiers' Council in Berlin and helped to found the German Communist Party. Since 1923 he has been a member of the Central Committee, first of the Communist Party, and since 1946 of the Socialist Unity Party.

During the Weimar Republic, Ulbricht was a Communist Deputy in the Reichstag, and played a leading part in the struggle against Hitler.

After Hitler came to power, he helped to organise the first illegal groups in Berlin, but later left Germany on the instructions of his party.

In the Soviet Union, Walter Ulbricht did extremely dangerous front-line work during the war, particularly during the battle of Stalingrad, appealing to German soldiers to leave the nazi armies and thus help to hasten the end of the war.

On his return to Germany in 1945, Ulbricht threw himself into the work of uniting the workers' parties, work which was crowned with success in April 1946 when the Socialist Unity Party was formed.

Today Walter Ulbricht is First Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party, as well as being Deputy Prime Minister.

Heinrich Rau, Deputy Prime Minister

Heinrich Rau joined the trade union and the Socialist Youth movement in his native Stuttgart when he began working as an engineering apprentice at the age of 14.

In 1916, during the First World War, he joined the Spartakus Bund, which carried on illegally the fight against imperialist war, and in 1919 joined the Communist Party.

As soon as Hitler came to power in 1933, the Gestapo arrested Heinrich Rau. In 1935 he managed to escape to Czechoslovakia, and in 1936 he went to Spain, where he rose to lead the famed "Thaelmann Battalion", the formation of German anti-fascists in the International Brigade.

In 1939 he was thrown into a French concentration camp, and after the fall of France was handed over to the nazis and sent to the concentration camp of Mauthausen, from which he was released at the end of the war.

Since then Rau has played a prominent part in rebuilding democratic Germany.

Fritz Selbmann, Minister for Foundries and Ore-Mining

Fritz Selbmann, formerly a Ruhr miner, has been an active Socialist all his adult life. He spent the entire nazi period in prison and concentration camp.

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Berlin W 8,
Germany.

TIME MARCHES ON!

The Kaiser

"When you confront the enemy you will give no quarter and take no prisoners. You must act like the huns under their King Etzel, one thousand years ago."

Kaiser Wilhelm II, speaking in Bremerhaven on July 27th 1900. "Berliner Boersen-Courier", Berlin, July 29th 1900.

✠

"When we go out to fight, we do it to win an advantage for ourselves. When we battle against Russia we do it in order to provide our people with something which they need: we do it to insure that we are not bottled up in a small corner: we do it to make the blood course more strongly through our veins".

Cavalry General Freiherr von Gebsattel, "Der Panther", Berlin 1915.

✠

"Our basic aim is to tear away from Russia the Baltic provinces of Kurland, Latvia, Estonia and the area linking the Baltic provinces and East Prussia, and to include these areas in the German Reich. Russia will also be thoroughly weakened if we detach Finland and the Ukraine."

H. Class, "Germany's War Aims", Munich 1917.

✠

"The future German aim must be to carry German culture to the east. The fate of Prussia was determined by winning land in the East. We must fight against the west so as to have free hands in the east."

"Berliner Tageblatt", Berlin, February 25th 1915.

Hitler

"Our future foreign policy must not be one of alliance with the east or the west: it must be an eastern policy in the sense that we acquire there the necessary space for our German people."

Adolf Hitler, "Mein Kampf", Munich, 1930.

✠

"The goal of the Reich Commissars for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and White Ruthenia must be to achieve the form of a German Protectorate, and then to convert these areas into part of the Greater German Reich by means of 'Germanising' acceptable racial elements, expulsion of unwanted elements, and colonisation by Germanic peoples".

"Instructions for the Reich Commissars for the East", quoted in the trial of major war criminals, Nuremberg 1947.

✠

"We National Socialists must cling to our foreign political aims: to the goal of ensuring for our German people the land and the space which we deserve. This action is the only one for which we can justify the spilling of German blood."

Adolf Hitler, "Mein Kampf" Munich 1930.

✠

"You are being sent to the east, not in order to look after the people living there, but to pump out all that can be pumped out. I intend to plunder, and I intend to do it thoroughly."

Reich Marshal Hermann Goering on August 6th, 1942, addressing Reich Commissars for Eastern Territory. Reported in the trial of major war criminals, Nuremberg 1947.

Adenauer

"Our aim is to liberate our brothers and sisters in the eastern territories".

Chancellor Konrad Adenauer at a public meeting in Bonn, September 7th 1953.

✠

"The Federal Chancellor (Adenauer) described the new order in the east of Europe as the most important goal of his policy"

"Neue Zeitung" (Official U. S. newspaper), Munich, March 17th 1952.

✠

"I have repeatedly stated that the German frontiers of 1937 (frontiers established by the Versailles Treaty, ed.) in the east must be removed, in order to creat an economic unit large enough to form a basis of life for our people and for the European nation".

Hans Christoph Seebohm, West German Transport Minister, "Deutsche Stimme", Hanover, December 15th 1951.

✠

"Germany has a great task ahead of it: the task of winning back our eastern neighbours to the western world, to which they belong by nature".

"Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung", Frankfurt (Main), June 20th 1951.

✠

"The east of Europe must once again become as Germanic as it used to be in the past. Young men from the west must accompany the drive to the east, as they once accompanied Heinrich the Lion".

"Offenbach Post", Offenbach, October 17th 1951.

✠

"Germany was always a bulwark against Asia, and the hour of testing has come once again. Now we need the strong shield of the Wehrmacht".

Heinrich Hellwege, President of the German Party at the Party Congress in Hamburg on May 30th 1953. "Nordwest-Zeitung", Oldenburg, June 1st 1953.

IN MEMORIAM: 1939–45

These, called to make the supreme sacrifice,
Thought they knew why; but had they lived to learn
For what indeed they so untimely died,
Would they have deemed it worthy of the price?
They died that Hitler's generals might return,
And Krupp and Thyssen fatten side by side.

SAGITTARIUS. "New Statesman and Nation", London

MAKING A NEW VILLAGE

by Dieter Noll

Kruge, a village lying in the hilly country of Upper Barnim, northeast of Berlin, looks very much like other villages in East Germany, with its red tile roofs, little garden plots and fields lining the road.

But it is a village with a history which only starts with the downfall of Hitler in 1945. There were houses there before 1945, of course, but they all belonged to the big estate and their history is only a part of Junker history. There were no farmers there — only Junkers and their serfs.

The new farmers do not like to recall those days of starvation wages with only salt herrings for Sunday dinner. Life began for Kruge when the war ended, in the summer of 1945.

As the villagers drifted back, they found the fields torn up by tanks and the houses lying in ruins. There were no cattle in the stalls and no hens scuttled over the road. Nothing remained beyond a vague feeling of being free.

Land for the land-hungry

In October 1945 came rumours that the land was going to be distributed. The small farmers and farm labourers, thin and hungry-looking, crowded together to discuss the news that this hundred-year-old dream of owning land was coming true at last.

And it did come true. The people of Kruge got down to work. The Junkers' land was measured and divided up and farm-labourers received from twelve to twenty-five acres. At one stroke they became independent farmers, and now, in late autumn, they had to start to cultivate their land.

It was a hard start; there wasn't a hen, a pig or a horse in the whole village, but still they managed to plough, with the sturdy artillery horses lent them by the Red Army. One ancient tractor from the old estate clattered over the fields. Then came a couple of horses, a few cattle and pigs, sent from districts which had not been so hard hit by the war.

Re-settlers from the east — from Pomerania, Silesia and East Prussia also received land and settled down in Kruge, until there were sixty small farms. The first corn was cut with the scythe and threshed in an ancient threshing machine, but the first homemade barley-bread tasted wonderful! There was also a little sugar from the first sugar-beet harvest. But housing was still bad and there were few farm animals.

In the beginning there were many who went mechanically about their work and were not at all convinced that the Junkers would not come back; but then as they harvested their first, their second and their third harvest, they realised that this dream of having land of their own had really come true.

New Homes

In 1948 the land reform building program was launched by the Socialist Unity Party. Every new farmer was to have his own house and farm buildings. The government advanced loans and credits for building purposes at three per cent interest. The farmers worked day and night in the fields and building their houses.

Careful planning was needed to make the best use of the few horses and implements. The buildings grew, and when a farmer moved into his new house he already thought of the past as an ugly dream.

When Kruge celebrated the establishment of the German Democratic Republic on October 7th, 1949, the worst hardships were over and the new buildings were finished. Now they could give their whole attention to the land again, feeling freer and happier now that they had their own roofs over their heads.

In 1950 the goverment cancelled half the credits given for building and the farmers of Kruge really began to understand what the Republic meant to them.

Speed-up

The whole village worked to build the machine and tractor station which was established in 1951. They put in three thousand hours' voluntary work on it, so that it was finished in eighty-six days. The station started out with three tractors. Within a year the number had grown to eleven, and today there are fifty-two.

Difficulties arose — a newly-designed binding and threshing combine, the first produced in the Republic, turned out to be faulty and had to be withdrawn from production. This set Kruge back in the harvest, but other villages gave their help and the harvest was brought in and threshed in good time. The combine was remodelled and now works perfectly satisfactorily. This year two giant Soviet combines are also in use.

In the summer of 1952 there was a lot of discussion in the little village inn, which the farmers had built themselves, over the unpractical way in which the tractors were always having to turn in the small fields. . . . But this was an absolutely new idea to most of them and they were not prepared for it. There followed endless discussions, arguments and some bad feeling. It was a conflict between old and new. Why couldn't they be content with the progress they had already made, some people asked.

Then an organisor from the Socialist Unity Party visited Kruge and called the farmers to a meeting on the subject of agricultural producers' cooperatives. They listened sceptically, cautiously. A heated discussion followed.

Forwards to cooperation

Finally five of the most successful of the Kruge farmers stood up and declared themselves in favour of setting up a cooperative.

The Kruge agricultural cooperative was actually set up by these five, but by the end of 1952 there were already 17 members. Now in the autumn of 1953 there are twenty-one members and the cooperative is flourishing.

Today, there are sixty new farmhouses with their own farm buildings in Kruge, the fields are tended by machines and tractors from the Kruge station, and the shortages, the hunger and the insecurity are things of the past.

In the middle of the village, next to the machine and tractor station, stands the farmers' new village club house. Kruge is fast developing into a centre for the villages around with its own big schoolhouse and agricultural training school.

This peaceful village, with its machine and tractor station, its growing agricultural producers' cooperative and its fruitful fields, is the home of men and women who know that for the first time the government in Berlin is really "their government."

(From "Neues Deutschland")

U. S. Magazine Asks:

WHATS KRUPP UP TO NOW?

...This man may be the most powerful in Germany today, and one of the strongest in all Western Europe. His family name, synonymous with the wholesale merchandising of death, has hung over generations of Americans and Europeans like a massive dagger.

He is Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach of Essen — known to the world simply as Krupp. His great-grandfather made cannons for Bismarck; his father and Bertha, his mother, who is still alive, armed Germany through two World Wars.

Ten years ago, when Alfried took over "the Works" as he likes to call the Krupp factories, they covered five square miles, employed 160,000 people (including Nazi-recruited slave laborers), and almost single-handedly kept Adolf Hitler's huge war machine rolling.

At war's end, in 1945, Krupp's fortunes took a turn for the worse. He was arrested, tried as a war criminal, and sentenced to 12 years in Landsberg jail. But two years ago, after serving only half his term, Krupp was pardoned. And this year almost all his wealth and power were returned to him...

Today Alfried once again controls shipyards in Bremen and Kiel; factories in Essen which produce locomotives, Diesel trucks, tools, home fixtures; and vast real estate properties — the whole valued at $ 95,000,000...

The return of this empire to Krupp touched off a great controversy which rages still. In commuting Krupp's sentence John J. McCloy, then American High Commissioner in Germany, stated: "I can find no personal guilt in the defendant Krupp sufficient to distinguish him above all others sentenced by the Nuremberg courts."

Actually there is pressure to plunge Krupp into the European armaments race — pressure which the United States, as a member of the Allied High Commission, is firmly resisting, out of a fear that his factories, if rebuilt for arms, might one day fall into the hands of the Reds.

Great Britain, on the other hand, feels that Krupp should make guns and tanks, but under rigid control. There are certain American Army men who agree with the British. They want Krupp to help us rearm Europe against Communism. And they regularly — but unofficially — make overtures to him.

...In May 1952 Krupp married attractive forty-year old Baroness Vera von Hohenfeldt, a German-born naturalized American citizen... She was proud of her American citizenship, which she obtained in 1946. She voted in the last Presidential election...

Collier's Magazine, New York, October 30th 1953

Bookshelf

GERMAN NOTEBOOK by Ian McDougal. Elek Books, London. 12/6 d.

The author of this unassuming book was correspondent for the BBC in Berlin for a considerable period. For a book by a western journalist it has several things to recommend it: it does not make capital out of anti-eastern propaganda, most of the ascertainable facts given are correct, and there is a hint of warning here and there about the dangers of a revival of fascism in West Germany.

But the whole book is really just a sort of literate gossip column, retailing not very interesting chats in trains and planes with rather dull opera-singers and business-men.

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STOP THE PRESS by George Marion. Fairplay Publishers, 165 Broadway New York. $1.50.

In GERMAN REPORT we frequently expose the lies told about Germany in the big-business press. For readers who want to know just why the press in the western world lies like this, George Marion's book is absolutely essential. Mr. Marion, who has been forced to form his own publishing house to distribute this and other books he has written, analyses only the press of the United States, showing its means and motives, but what he writes applies in great measure to Britain and other countries in the western world. This is very definitely a book to get, to read, and to lend to those of your friends who believe everything they read in the mass distribution press.

SPIKE THAT LIE!

The Editor
The Manchester Guardian
Manchester, England

November 16th 1953

Sir,

In your issue dated November 9th, your Bonn Correspondent, under the headline "Quaint Note from East Germany" gave his version of a note addressed by the Government of the German Democratic Republic to the Governments of Britain, France and the United States.

In the course of this article your correspondent states: "There has been another Soviet promise to reduce 'occupation costs' in the Soviet Zone. This would, of course, be conditional on the Western Powers doing the same thing in their zones."

Reference to the files of your own newspaper will show you that the "Soviet promise to reduce occupation costs" was in no way made conditional upon the Western powers doing the same. The "Soviet promise" was made in the German-Soviet Agreement, signed in Moscow on August 22nd 1953 by East German Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl, and Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov. This agreement provided specifically that occupation costs in East Germany would be reduced from 1950 million marks in 1953 to 1600 million marks in 1954; and that in future occupation costs should not exceed 5 % of the state budget.

The reduction was made unconditionally.

West Germans would obviously welcome similar steps by the Western Powers, however, for occupation costs in West Germany amount to 9,600 million marks for 1953/54: that is 34.5 % of the budget.

This sir, is only one of the mistakes of fact which disfigure almost every dispatch from your Bonn Correspondent. Is this consonant with the high standards for which the Manchester Guardian was once justly renowned?

I am, etc,

John Peet

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

As I write these lines, workmen are hard at work a few hundred yards away, putting the last touches to the big Christmas Fair on the Marx-Engels Platz, the great East Berlin square where the Kaiser's palace formerly stood.

Christmas Fairs have always formed a main feature of Berlin's Christmas, and even in the lean years immediately after the war they put up a brave show, though traditional Christmas food was replaced by substitutes.

Fun of Fair

This year, however, East Berlin's Fair seems likely to put all previous celebrations in the shade. There will be all the fun of the fair, with a circus, roundabouts and swings; there will be all the usual stalls selling Christmas gifts, toys, hot sausages, Christmas trees and decorations, and seasonal foods such as gingerbread and young chickens steaming from the grill.

But a Christmas Fair is, after all, mainly something for children, and it is here that most love and care is going into the preparations. For them the famous "Children's Railway" has been brought from Dresden, and is being rebuilt on the Marx-Engels Platz, and with this miniature railway the young visitors will be able to travel from one part of the fair to another.

Fairy Tale Figures

One of the stops on this railway line will be the "Fairy Tale Forest" in front of the Pergamon Museum, at the northern end of the square; a real little forest, peopled with the well-known figures from fairy tales old and new.

Anoher stop will be at the Spree Pier, where two excursion boats, which ply in summer on Berlin's lakes, will be anchored to serve as restaurants and cafes.

And the younger generation will not only have a chance to see things; they will have a chance to do things too. The miniature railway is staffed by members of the Young Pioneer organisation, and traffic in the entire fair area will be directed by Young Pioneers wearing the white caps of the traffic police.

Since the big-business press in the western world will probably soon be trotting out the tired old lies about Christmas trees and carols being banned in East Germany, it is worth noting that the dominant feature of East Berlin's Christmas Fair will be a giant Christmas tree over 100 feet tall, which was just being erected as we went to press.

Nazi Diplomat

I see from West Berlin newspapers that the West German Minister in Norway, Herr Georg von Broich-Oppert has been back in West Berlin for a little visit. It reminds me of a meeting I had with this gentleman in 1949, when he was personal assistant to West Berlin's late Mayor Ernst Reuter, and I was West Berlin correspondent for the British Reuter Newsagency (no kin).

Hearing I had recently come from Vienna, Herr Broich-Oppert, whose face was disfigured by the duelling scars which German reactionaries find so attractive, began to talk of the wonderful times he had had in Vienna. "Those were the happiest days of my life" he said.

He then explained that he had been a member of the nazi Embassy staff in Vienna from 1934 to 1938. During those years, as any student of history knows, the German Embassy in Vienna was staffed solely by active nazis, engaged in undermining Austrian independence and preparing for the conquest of Austria in 1938.

As a man with experience and training in undermining independent small countries, in the interests of German militarism, Herr Broich-Oppert seems to me a very suitable person for the militaristic masters of West Germany to send as Minister to Oslo.

Whether the Norwegian people agree is, of course, another matter.

Odd Figures

I find the statistics in the big-business press very intriguing sometimes. Latest example was given by the London "News Chronicle" on November 12th, in an article by its Berlin correspondent Bruce Rothwell purporting to portray conditions in East Germany.

I have no space to deal with all the distortions and untruths, but one sentence was outstandingly wrong: "Of the first 17 department heads of the East German administration, only two are still alive" Mr. Rothwell states. The obvious implication from the context is that the others had been "liquidated".

Since there were not "17 department heads" in the first East German administration, it is difficult to know exactly whom Mr. Rothwell is referring to; but I happen to know personally three of the first department heads, who are alive today and in excellent health.

Challenge

I herewith challenge Mr. Rothwell, and the "News Chronicle" to produce their list of the 15 "dead" men; and if they are correct I shall be ready, as always, to publish a correction. But I am not very hopeful of receiving a correction; in the two years during which GERMAN REPORT has been appearing I have offered literally dozens of times to publish a correction if my statements on western press lies are incorrect. To date I have not received even a feeble attempt to justify one lie.

But let us go on hoping.

New Red Menace!

"Symptoms of dictatorship are visible on every hand (in East Berlin, ed). New gimmick showplace restaurant on Stalin Allee, Café Warschau, guarantees comfort but no privacy.

"Big tables with over-stuffed chairs permit no more than four people where eight could be seated. Reason for it is to asure that all conversation will be loud and public''.

Leo Cherne in U. S. newsletter "Report to Management" from Berlin September 2nd 1953.

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Warning to all true anti-un-American Americans! Drag those comfortable chairs out of the parlour into the yard, and burn them! They are red secret weapons!

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